

IC 20-12-70

Chapter 70. Twenty-First Century Scholars Program

IC 20-12-70-1

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to the state student assistance commission established under IC 20-12-21-4.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2.

IC 20-12-70-2

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "eligible student" means a student who meets the following requirements:

- (1) Is a resident of Indiana.
- (2) Is enrolled in grade 8 at a public or an accredited nonpublic school.
- (3) Is eligible for free or reduced priced lunches under the national school lunch program.
- (4) Agrees in writing, together with the student's custodial parents or guardian, that the student will:
 - (A) graduate from a secondary school located in Indiana that meets the admission criteria of an institution of higher learning;
 - (B) not illegally use controlled substances (as defined in IC 35-48-1-9);
 - (C) not commit a crime or infraction described in IC 9-30-5;
 - (D) not commit any other crime or delinquent act (as described in IC 31-37-1-2 or IC 31-37-2-2 through IC 31-37-2-5 (or IC 31-6-4-1(a)(1) through IC 31-6-4-1(a)(5) before their repeal));
 - (E) when the eligible student is a senior in high school, timely apply:
 - (i) to an institution of higher learning for admission; and
 - (ii) for any federal and state student financial assistance available to the eligible student to attend an institution of higher learning; and
 - (F) achieve a cumulative grade point average upon graduation of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale (or its equivalent if another grading scale is used) for courses taken during grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.2-1991, SEC.83; P.L.55-1994, SEC.3; P.L.1-1997, SEC.104.

IC 20-12-70-3

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the twenty-first century scholars fund established under section 9 of this chapter.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2.

IC 20-12-70-4

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "institution of higher learning"

means the following:

- (1) A state educational institution (as defined in IC 20-12-0.5-1).
- (2) A private institution of higher education (as defined in IC 20-12-63-3).
- (3) A postsecondary proprietary educational institution (as defined in IC 20-1-19-1) that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.161-1997, SEC.1.

IC 20-12-70-5

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the twenty-first century scholars program established under section 8 of this chapter.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2.

IC 20-12-70-6

Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "scholarship applicant" means a student who meets the following requirements:

- (1) Was an eligible student under section 2 of this chapter.
- (2) Is a resident of Indiana.
- (3) Has graduated from a secondary school located in Indiana that meets the admission criteria of an institution of higher learning.
- (4) Has applied to attend and has been accepted to attend an institution of higher learning as a full-time student.
- (5) Certifies in writing that the student has:
 - (A) not illegally used controlled substances (as defined in IC 35-48-1-9);
 - (B) not illegally consumed alcoholic beverages;
 - (C) not committed any other crime or a delinquent act (as described in IC 31-37-1-2 or IC 31-37-2-2 through IC 31-37-2-5 (or IC 31-6-4-1(a)(1) through IC 31-6-4-1(a)(5) before their repeal)); and
 - (D) timely filed an application for other types of financial assistance available to the student from the state or federal government.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.55-1994, SEC.4; P.L.1-1997, SEC.105.

IC 20-12-70-7

Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "tuition scholarship" means financial assistance provided to a student to offset the costs of tuition and other regularly assessed fees incurred by the student in attending an institution of higher learning.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2.

IC 20-12-70-8

Sec. 8. The twenty-first century scholars program is established to do the following:

- (1) Reduce the number of students who withdraw from high school before graduation.

- (2) Increase the number of students who are prepared to enter the workforce upon graduation.
- (3) Increase the number of students entering institutions of higher learning.
- (4) Encourage eligible students to attend institutions of higher learning by reducing the financial burden on the eligible students and their families.
- (5) Decrease drug and alcohol abuse by encouraging higher educational pursuits.
- (6) Increase individual economic vitality.
- (7) Improve the overall quality of life for many Indiana residents.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.21-1995, SEC.60.

IC 20-12-70-9

Sec. 9. (a) The twenty-first century scholars fund is established to provide the financial resources necessary to award the tuition scholarships authorized under the program.

(b) The commission shall administer the fund.

(c) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

(d) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public funds may be invested.

(e) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2.

IC 20-12-70-10

Sec. 10. (a) Money in the fund shall be used to provide annual tuition scholarships to scholarship applicants who qualify under section 11(a) of this chapter in an amount that is equal to the lowest of the following amounts:

(1) If the scholarship applicant attends a state educational institution (as defined in IC 20-12-0.5-1) that satisfies the requirements of subsection (c) and:

- (A) receives no other financial assistance specifically designated for tuition and other regularly assessed fees, a full tuition scholarship to the state educational institution; or
- (B) receives other financial assistance specifically designated for tuition and other regularly assessed fees, the balance required to attend the state educational institution not to exceed the amount described in clause (A).

(2) If the scholarship applicant attends a private institution of higher education (as defined in IC 20-12-63-3) that satisfies the requirements of subsection (c) and:

- (A) receives no other financial assistance specifically designated for tuition and other regularly assessed fees, an average of the full tuition scholarship amounts of all state educational institutions not including Ivy Tech State College; or

- (B) receives other financial assistance specifically designated for tuition and other regularly assessed fees, the balance required to attend the college or university not to exceed the amount described in clause (A).
- (3) If the scholarship applicant attends a postsecondary proprietary educational institution (as defined in IC 20-1-19-1) that satisfies the requirements of subsection (c) and:
 - (A) receives no other financial assistance specifically designated for tuition and other regularly assessed fees, the lesser of:
 - (i) the full tuition scholarship amounts of Ivy Tech State College; or
 - (ii) the actual tuition and regularly assessed fees of the institution; or
 - (B) receives other financial assistance specifically designated for tuition and other regularly assessed fees, the balance required to attend the institution not to exceed the amount described in clause (A).
- (b) Each tuition scholarship awarded under this chapter is renewable under section 11(b) of this chapter for a total scholarship award that does not exceed the equivalent of eight (8) semesters.
- (c) An institution of higher learning attended by an applicant described in subsection (a) must satisfy the following requirements:
 - (1) Be accredited by an agency that is recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education.
 - (2) Operate an organized program of postsecondary education leading to an associate or a baccalaureate degree on a campus located in Indiana.
 - (3) Be approved by the commission:
 - (A) under rules adopted under IC 4-22-2; and
 - (B) in consultation with the commission on proprietary education, if appropriate.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.5-1995, SEC.35; P.L.161-1997, SEC.2.

IC 20-12-70-11

Sec. 11. (a) To initially qualify for a tuition scholarship under this chapter, a scholarship applicant must do the following:

- (1) Enroll as a full-time student in an institution of higher learning that:
 - (A) is described in section 10(a); and
 - (B) satisfies the requirements of section 10(c);
 of this chapter.
- (2) Submit to the commission all of the information and evidence required by the commission to determine eligibility as a scholarship applicant.
- (3) Meet any other minimum criteria established by the commission.
- (b) To qualify for a tuition scholarship renewal under this chapter, a scholarship recipient must do the following:

- (1) Submit to the commission a renewal application.
- (2) Continue to comply with the requirements set forth in subsection (a).
- (3) Continue to be a student in good standing at the institution of higher learning.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.161-1997, SEC.3.

IC 20-12-70-12

Sec. 12. If an eligible student, scholarship applicant, or scholarship recipient violates an agreement entered into under this chapter, the eligible student, scholarship applicant, or scholarship recipient is disqualified from further consideration as a scholarship recipient under this chapter.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2.

IC 20-12-70-13

Sec. 13. (a) The Indiana college placement and assessment center shall maintain the following:

- (1) The agreements under section 2 of this chapter.
- (2) The certifications under section 6 of this chapter.
- (3) A comprehensive list of all eligible students under this chapter.

(b) The commission shall have access to the information maintained under this section.

(c) The commission, the Indiana college placement and assessment center, the commission for higher education, the department of education, and each approved secondary school shall work together in implementing this program.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2.

IC 20-12-70-14

Sec. 14. Each institution of higher learning that participates in the program shall develop by September 1, 1995, specific mentoring programs for scholarship recipients under this chapter to assist the scholarship recipients through particularized academic and social counseling.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2.

IC 20-12-70-15

Sec. 15. The commission shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this chapter, including:

- (1) rules regarding the establishment of appeals procedures for individuals who become disqualified from the program under section 12 of this chapter; and
- (2) notwithstanding section 2 of this chapter, rules that may include students who are in grades other than grade 8 as eligible students.

As added by P.L.56-1990, SEC.2. Amended by P.L.2-1996, SEC.264.

IC 20-12-70-16

Sec. 16. The commission shall do the following:

- (1) Prepare a statistical report on a fiscal year basis that describes awards to students attending institutions under this chapter.
- (2) Deliver the report described in subdivision (1) to the legislative council before August 15 of the year following the fiscal year covered in the report.

As added by P.L.161-1997, SEC.4.